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APPENDIX I

Timorese Women: 20 Years of struggle in the Resistance

The struggle which the East Timorese have been defending over these last 20 years of armed resistance, with innumerable sacrifices is a just cause based on international law. It is a struggle which has defended the true and legitimate aspirations and inalienable right to self-determination and independence of the people of East Timor and the end of the illegal occupation of the aggressive and tyrannical Indonesian regime.

As human beings, we confront many difficulties both moral and material. In this age of globalisation where people are often victims of the consumer society, we, the mothers of East Timor, suffering from the absence of our husbands who have either been killed, disappeared or imprisoned outside East Timor by the Indonesian armed forces, feel a great responsibility in the upbringing of our sons and daughters, as guardians of the Timorese identity in this situation imposed by the government of occupation.

We have children who are suffering from lack of the paternal love, moral support and material comfort needed by all children and this at a moment when in the world there is a call for harmony, peace and love in the family. Our youngsters seek freedom of speech and action, but these freedoms are denied them: they are maltreated, imprisoned, tortured and often physically eliminated.

For the information of those who participate in the dialogues under the auspices of the UN, occurrences of flagrant human rights abuses, especially of women, continue to be the daily bread tasted of the East Timorese people.

Indonesia openly displays its force during the course of important meetings and conferences. It pretends to be an economic power among other under-developed countries which resolutely respects human rights as reflected in its wonderful state doctrine of 'Pancasila', but in East Timor constructs buildings, bridges, roads out of innocent East Timorese flesh and bones.

At various phases of the political struggle we have confirmed that the heroic sacrifice and commitment of our great fallen heros has not been in vain - a spirit of international community has recognised that the Timorese are struggling from inside a concentration camp full of women who have been violated and killed.

Throughout our history, we have always been a people with different characteristics to the Indonesians people. We existed as a people with our own history, identity, culture and religion. there is no doubt that we never were and never will want to be integrated with Indonesia.

This is the image of Timorese women: women who, with spirit, courage and determination, continue to resist along with all East Timorese, for our total liberation.

We hope that these words will be accepted and distributed among women's solidarity groups who are struggling too for the cause of East Timor.
Our greetings.
To resist is to win!
East Timorese Women
East Timor, 19.4.96